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NUR MISUARI CALLS ON MAHATHIR (With pix)

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 16 (Bernama) -- Nur Misuari, the Governor of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao, called on Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the Prime Minister's office here today.

Misuari, who is also Chairman of the Southern Philippines Council for Peace and Development, was accompanied by a delegation of 20 officials.

The Muslim leader, who arrived last night for a week-long official visit, had met Dr Mahathir briefly in Subic Bay in the Philippines during the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) meeting.

Earlier today he held talks with Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi at Wisma Putra.

Foreign Ministry officials said the objective of his visit is to invite Malaysian companies to invest in economic and joint-venture projects in the southern Philippines, which is one of the five territories within the East Asean Growth Area.

Misuari is scheduled to hold discussions with Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim after his meeting with Dr Mahathir.

He would also give a talk at an investment promotion luncheon hosted by Malaysian South-South Association at the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations later today. -- BERNAMA

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